



Guidance on the Use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

The Women's Collective (TWC) welcomes the guidance from the New York Department of Health AIDS Institute on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for the prevention of HIV. The guidance, published in January of 2014, offers support to health care professionals on the prescription and monitoring of PrEP. TWC believes the release of the “Guidance for the Use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Prevent HIV Transmission” is particularly invaluable to two groups of people: people at risk for HIV and people living with HIV who are in discordant relationships. PrEP provides an added incentive for voluntary disclosure between sexual partners and increases opportunities for people living with HIV to have in-depth conversations with their HIV providers about sex and risk. PrEP and Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for contraception (PrEPc) offer unique options for safe and natural conception for couples in which one partner is living with HIV.

The Women’s Collective sees the development of these PrEP guidelines as a key stepping stone toward improved education and awareness for both medical providers and the community, particularly in New York. TWC hopes this is one of many milestones in HIV prevention this year. We look forward to the development of PrEP guidance across the country. TWC sees this as a critical moment to raise the discourse around PrEP and to establish a focus on women — it is *essential* that women are given the opportunity to benefit from this new prevention technology.

TWC calls on public and private entities involved in guideline development and dissemination to work with obstetricians, gynecologists, and thought leaders in women's health to ensure that these important guidances supports women’s voluntary and informed use of PrEP. The Women's Collective also strongly recommends collaboration between guideline-making bodies and community-based women's organizations, both within and beyond the HIV arena, the U.S. Women and PrEP Working Group, AVAC, and a diverse group of HIV stakeholders to ensure that guidelines are practical and inclusive.

The Women’s Collective welcomes this process and looks forward to the engagement of women in the future of PrEP.